Chicago Tribune

JACKIE TO LET LOOK PRINT CENSORED STORY

Magazine OK's Cut in Text of 1,600 Words

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1966

[N. Y. Times-Chicago Tribune Service]

New York, Dec. 21 — Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Look magazine resolved their dispute tonight on the serialization of "The Death of a President."

In a statement, Mrs. Kennedy said Look "has agreed to remove or modify all those passages in the magazine version of 'The Death of a President' relating to the personal life" of herself and her children.

Look, in turn, said simply that Mrs. Kennedy had "withdrawn her objections" to the serialization.

1,600 Words Cut

William Atwood, editor-in-chief of Cowles Communications, Inc., which publishes Look, said that Look had met Mrs. Kennedy's objections by censoring 1,600 words from the four-part, 80,000 word serialization, which will begin in the issue on sale about Jan. 10.

Mrs. Kennedy said she had "been told there are historical inaccuracies and unfair references" in the book. Look, however, said the revisions "in no way affected the historical accuracy or completeness" of the work.

The apparent contradiction, most persons close to the argument thought, was a reflection of Mrs. Kennedy's belief that "The Death of a President" drew an unflattering picture of President Johnson and spoke of the hostility that the Kennedy family felt toward him.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy

William Manchester

Adviser to Jackie

Earlier in the day, Richard N. Goodwin, an adviser to Mrs. Kennedy, met with Attwood. Goodwin had made the final revisions in the serialization.

In the afternoon, David W. Pack, the attorney who represented Look, met Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's attorney, in Rifkind's office on Madison av.

While reporters gathered outside, the attorneys discussed, Rifkind said, "a sensible package" for a settlement. He said that "many other things are involved," not only the text of the serialization.

Rifkind, a former federal judge, said earlier that he was not involved in discussions of a settlement. His statement today was his first public acknowledgment that an agreement was possible.

Harper & Row, which wants to publish "The Death of a President" in book form in April, was not represented at today's meeting. However, it is expected that any agreement with Look would ease the way for a settlement of Mrs. Kennedy's suit against the book publisher.

Mrs. Kennedy filed the suit last Friday, contending that the publication of "The Death of a President," in either serial or book form would violate a memorandum that William Manchester, the book's author, and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy signed on March 26, 1964.

Breach of Contract

The memorandum specified that the book would not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, five years after the assassination of President Kennedy, and it must be approved by both Mrs. Kennedy and the senator. The approval, Mrs. Kennedy said in her suit, was not given.

Altho the suit was based on breach of contract, Mrs. Kennedy was reported to be most disturbed by what she regarded as Manchester's "tasteless"

use of her own personal recollections.

Manchester, who had been promised that no member of the Kennedy family would cooperate with any other author in an account of the assassination, had obtained these recollections in two lengthy conversations with Mrs. Kennedy in the spring of 1964.

Finished Last Year

A source close to the dispute said that Mrs. Kennedy had treated Manchester like a "confessor," and that she had "made no attempt at self-censorship" during the interviews.

Manchester finished his 300,000-word manuscript late last year. Subsequently, a number of advisers to Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Kennedy, most of them former New Frontiersmen, read and revised it.

"The Death of a President," those who have read it say, depicts President Johnson unfavorably and speaks of the hostility that the Kennedys felt toward him. Some of Kennedy's advisers insisted that its publication would strain the delicate political alliance between the senator and the President.

Amplifies on Report

Besides political ambitions, the controversy touches on substantial sums of money, old friendships, and the public's right to know versus the right to personal privacy.

Earlier, Harper & Row amplified on a New York Times

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LOOK, KENNEDY COUNSEL END BOOK DISPUTE

1,600 Words to Be Cut from Serial

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report that it would increase its first printing of "The Death of a President" from 100,000 to 250,000 copies.

It said the size of the printing was still undecided, and that it could reach 250,000. Harper & Row said it would not seek greater profits from this and would, in fact, turn over all the profit from anything after the first 100,000 copies to the Kennedy library in Cambridge, Mass.

Works on Proofs

The publishing company also reaffirmed its pledge to accept "only a small return" from the first printing, and said that it would donate part of the profit from the first 100,000 copies to the Kennedy library.

The book apparently has been set in type. Harper & Row had agreed to remove some of the passages that Mrs. Kennedy objected to before she brought suit. A spokesman for Harper & Row said that Manchester was now correcting galley proofs of his book.